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ALLSTON BRIGHTON

Allston residents to back Harvard project if university agrees to



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Posted by Matt Rocheleau | March 05, 2013 6:06 PM

By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

on said it will back Harvard's proposal to in the neighborhood if the college and acility away from residential streets, neighborhood-wide master plan process.

ALLSTON-BRIGHTON REAL ESTATE

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A city-appointed resident group in Allst relocate a campus services facility with the city agree to eventually move the fa build a promised park, and complete a

us services — mailing, information storage, and transportation fleet Western Ave. to a site a few blocks away

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Avenue site for a proposed 350,000-sq-ft, which a private developer hopes to build in about two years.

ism from some who have said putting a street would not fit with the surrounding area. Feedback, Harvard has made numerous revisions, which has lessened some, but not all, of the concern.

unanimously at a meeting Tuesday night. The city's Redevelopment Authority approve the relocation plan at the meeting.

ing Harvard to: include in its master plan


with requests from task force members to see Harvard's plans for more academic-focused projects.

wants, they have specific plans. But, for all of the things the city, it's all a bunch of maybes and somedays," task force member Mattison said recently.

led to meet again with officials from the university and the Redevelopment Authority next Tuesday, March 12.

deal "with similar language as the resolution we voted on at last week's meeting, Mattison said by phone.

to reconsider our support of the project, and we'll be talking to Harvard and the BRA about why they couldn't meet those conditions," he said.



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Harvard has proposed relocating campus technology, police training, recycling, and waste management — from a building at 219 Western Ave. to a site a few blocks away at 28 Travis St.

That would make room at the Western Ave. site for a proposed 350,000-sq-ft retail and residential project, which a private developer hopes to start work on in the fall and finish in about two years.

The relocation proposal has faced criticism from some who have said putting a street would not fit with the surrounding area. Feedback, Harvard has made numerous revisions to the proposal in recent weeks, which has lessened some, but not all, of the concern.

The Harvard Allston Task Force voted Tuesday night to recommend that the city's redevelopment authority approve the relocation proposal, but only if the conditions are met.

The task force drafted a resolution asking

The resolution is in final form and is being presented to the city's Redevelopment Authority next Tuesday, March 12.

"For the things Harvard is doing for the community, it's all a bunch of maybes and somedays," task force member Harry Mattison said recently.

The task force is scheduled to meet again with officials from the university and the Boston Redevelopment Authority next Tuesday, March 12.

The task force hopes a deal "with similar language as the resolution we voted on at last week's meeting," will be reached at the next meeting, Mattison said by phone.

"If we don't, we'll have to talk to Harvard and the BRA about why they couldn't meet those reasonable conditions," he said.

Authority is scheduled to vote at City Hall next Thursday, to approve Harvard's relocation proposal. The authority is reviewing the 350,000 square-foot proposal for Western Avenue and the "Residential and Retail Commons at Barry's Corner."

and the city redevelopment authority said Wednesday that a deal could be reached with the task force.

"Over the past eight months, we have received clear feedback about the 28-page relocation plan from the task force, the city, Allston neighbors and city officials," said Casey, who works for Harvard's public affairs office. "We have revised our proposal to address concerns raised by the task force and have been able to put forth a comprehensive response – including a plan with Rena Park planning and community access to be based on substantial input. We look forward to reaching an agreement with the community and moving forward with this project."

"We're working closely with the community and will continue to work with city officials, residents, and Harvard on reaching an understanding about the Travis Street relocation plan," said a statement from Melina Schuler, a spokeswoman for the redevelopment authority.

This is part of a 10-year master plan framework for Allston unveiled in the fall. The framework calls for nine new projects, including a new arena, a refurbished football stadium, a hotel and new business school buildings.

Harvard occupies 100 acres in Allston, nearly double the size of its

presence and development plans in the neighborhood have been a source of controversy for years, creating tension between Harvard and

Harvard originally envisioned a massive 250-acre campus in Allston that would include student housing, entertainment facilities, and the "Residential and Retail Commons at Barry's Corner" to replicate Harvard Square.

The redevelopment authority will vote on March 14, on whether to approve the proposal. It will also consider approving a project dubbed "Residential and Retail Commons at Barry's Corner."

Officials from Harvard and the city said they hoped an agreement could be reached by the end of the week.

"Over the past eight months, we have received clear feedback about the 28-page relocation plan from the task force, the city, Allston neighbors and city officials," Kevin Casey, who works for Harvard's public affairs office, said in a statement. "We have revised our proposal to address concerns raised by the task force and have been able to put forth a comprehensive response – including a plan with Rena Park planning and community access to be based on substantial input. We look forward to reaching an agreement with the community and moving forward with this project."

"We're making progress on the Travis Street relocation plan," said a statement from Melina Schuler, a spokeswoman for the redevelopment authority.

The relocation proposal unveiled in the fall includes a new arena, a refurbished football stadium, a hotel and new business school buildings.

Harvard owns about 360 acres in Allston, nearly double the size of its

The university's presence and development plans in the neighborhood have been a source of controversy for years, creating tension between Harvard and

In late 2003, Harvard unveiled a massive 250-acre campus in Allston that would include academic space, student housing, entertainment facilities, and the "Residential and Retail Commons at Barry's Corner" to replicate Harvard Square.

Phase of that 50-year plan was a 589,000 square-foot estimated to cost \$1 billion.

on was built, but in late 2009 construction was put on university's endowment was rocked by the recession, percent.

the university began its first major project since then: a to convert a building into a laboratory for innovation t opened that fall.

ersity broke ground on a \$100 million building that will using on its business school campus. It is scheduled to

oved forward, Harvard announced it would take a approach to expanding in Allston by dividing its vision l working with outside developers and investors in an sity's financial risk.

ed this past summer that it expects to resume work on t year. The building would contain between 500,000 t of space for a state-of-the-art health and life sciences ssrooms, and areas to foster collaborative innovation,

iversity announced plans to move a "substantial f Engineering and Applied Sciences from its main o the planned science complex in Allston

sions to the Travis Street relocation proposal that were ht, read [this story](#) from the Harvard Crimson student

Harvard's proposals for Allston, [click here](#).

at mjrochele@gmail.com.

righton updates:
i on Twitter, [here](#).

At the heart of the first p
science center that was

The complex's foundatic
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laboratory, research, cla
officials have said.

Last month, Harvard U:
majority" of its School o
campus in Cambridge to

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announced Tuesday nig
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